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TEACHERS TO STRIKE

'Teachers are fed up. They are tired of this government bullying them.'

—Nova Scotia Teachers Union President Liette Doucet



For first time in 122 years, teachers will strike for one day
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TEACHERS TO STRIKE

Teachers are ‘focused on their students’ despite uncertainty

EDUCATION

Union wants action on class size changes, resource needs



Haley Ryan

Metro | Halifax

As parents look for child care and teachers plan their descent on Province House this Friday for Nova Scotia's first-ever teacher strike, the union leader says quality education hasn't suffered in classrooms.

Speaking with media in the legislature Wednesday, Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) president Liette Doucet said while she understands work-to-rule and a strike is disruptive for families, teachers are more focused than ever on kids.

"Teachers are in the classroom teaching, they are focused on their students as they have been over the past two months. They are ensuring that their students are taught every day, they never left the classroom," Doucet said.

"They are covering the outcomes and doing the best that they can for their student as they will continue to do so in the future."

Doucet said in light of a bill



A teacher takes questions from students at St. Mary's School. METRO FILE

“It’s been 122 years and there has never been a full-out strike, and at this point it’s a historical moment.” Doucet said.

“It shows teachers are fed up. They are tired of this government bullying them.”

Doucet said teachers are tired of no immediate classroom changes being made in earlier tentative agreements or this bill, despite years of data and recent reports outlining class size changes and resource needs that teachers continue to call for.

being presented this week that would enforce a teacher contract, and no word yet on whether teachers could speak at a law amendments committee outside school hours, it was important

teachers “take a stand” Friday around the legislature in a show of strength.

“It’s been 122 years and there has never been a full-out strike, and at this point it’s a historical

moment,” Doucet said.

“It shows teachers are fed up. They are tired of this government bullying them.”

Doucet said teachers are tired of no immediate classroom changes being made in earlier tentative agreements or this bill, despite years of data and recent reports outlining class size changes and resource needs that teachers continue to call for.

But Government House Leader, Liberal MLA Michel Samson, said it would not have been fair to “unilaterally” decide on classroom conditions without hearing from active teachers, which is why nine will be on the committee set to deliver a report this April.

“This is not meant to be a committee that will go ad nauseum, that will not act on its report.

+

CLOSURES

Board response

All schools in the Halifax Regional School Board will be closed to students Friday in light of the teacher strike, a statement said Wednesday.

EXCEL Child Care, Early Learning Opportunities, Early Years Centres and SchoolsPlus services are also cancelled for the day. Community use of the schools will continue.

There are going to be significant changes that will be implemented by this government.”

Samson added he was disappointed the NSTU will strike in light of the recent storm days already keeping kids out of class, when they could have taken that action earlier or walked away from the negotiating table if they felt earlier deals weren't good enough.

The NSTU forced the government into legislation by encouraging their members to take each of the three deals, which were then rejected, Samson said, adding the situation is “not normal.”

Samson also urged the opposition parties to help pass the bill by Thursday night, which would end job action.

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TEACHERS TO STRIKE

Weighing in on the walkout

Announcement comes after the Liberals proposed a bill legislating a contract. **HALEY RYAN** METRO

As news spread of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) calling for a strike this Friday, politicians, students, labour advocates and others weighed in.

“ I think the teachers shouldn't take the deal. It's not fair from what I see. They're under a lot of pressure and they go out of their way for certain students to help them out.

Leh Khisa, Citadel High Grade 12

“ I feel like they're being greedy ... I have ADD, and it's really hard. I failed my math course this semester. We're failing our courses because we have no extra help.

Emma Martins-Robarts, Citadel High Grade 11 student

“ We have tried everything. We are tired of Premier McNeil coming back to us, disrespecting teachers' wishes, disrespecting ... collective bargaining. He's disrespected all workers in Nova Scotia.

Liette Doucet, NSTU president

“ There was no way forward, or didn't appear to be a way for a collective agreement. I negotiated three different agreements with two



A crowd rallies in support of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union in Grand Parade earlier this month organized by the group Parents for Teachers. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

different executives at the bargaining table ... I moved from our position every time I went to the table. Immediately this was

rejected.

Premier Stephen McNeil

“ I see what the teachers

are doing is the last thing that they have to do to make the point that today's classrooms are not working for them, and they're not

working for students.
PC leader Jamie Baillie

“ The government has responded that those investments will only be made provided they don't jeopardize the government's fiscal plan of a balanced budget. Here's the bottom line — the education of a generation is more important than a balanced budget.

NDP leader Gary Burrill

“ We've seen the last two weeks a number of days where kids have been out of school due to storms. Having them out again on Friday is certainly not what's in the best interest of Nova Scotia kids.

Minister Michel Samson

“ We applaud the 9,300 teachers who will walk off the job in their fight for decent working conditions and better education for Nova Scotia's students and this Federation will be there to support them. This is about the need for good faith bargaining that will result in better quality education for children.

Release from N.S. Federation of Labour President Danny Cavanagh

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TEACHERS

McNeil takes strike in stride

Premier Stephen McNeil attempted to strike a conciliatory tone with teachers after news the union had called for a walkout on Friday.

"When I became premier, the one place I thought I could make a difference was in the classroom," he said during the State of the Province address Wednesday in front of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) called for the strike in light of the government's decision to table a bill that would impose a contract on teachers. The legislation came after the membership overwhelmingly rejected a third agreement last Thursday.

"We knew that there was always potential of a strike," McNeil told reporters after the speech.



Premier Stephen McNeil addresses a business luncheon in Halifax on Wednesday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

"It's my hope that the opposition parties will help us move this legislation forward, and get back to some level of normalcy in the classroom."

McNeil claimed to understand the discontent among

teachers, but said the sentiments date back to before his tenure.

"I walked into a powder keg of 20-plus years of frustrations," he said during the address.

McNeil said teachers had told him they did not feel represented on either side of the negotiation table between the government and the union. The legislation, which includes a committee on working conditions, "will allow nine teachers from across the province to come in and directly have input," he said.

The premier said his government has put more money into education with each budget, but cautioned that growth across the public sector needed to be curbed.

JORDAN OMSTEAD/FOR METRO

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POLICE

Man accused of indecent act close to kids



Philip Croucher
Metro | Halifax

A man with a conviction of sex assault against a child is in trouble with the law again after police say he was spotted masturbating in the window of an apartment building while children were outside sledding.

Halifax Regional Police say they were called to Maplehurst Drive in Dartmouth around

12:30 p.m. Tuesday after kids had spotted the accused allegedly committing the indecent act.

The kids were sledding for about an hour on a hill behind the building, when according to police, "they heard a cough and then noticed the man through the open window."

When police arrived a man was eventually arrested about 40 minutes later.

The accused, James Michael Snow of Dartmouth, is charged



They heard a cough and then noticed the man.

Police statement

on a single of committing an indecent act.

Snow is no stranger to police.

He has a previous conviction for sexual assault against

a child from 2003, and last year, was arrested for breaking the terms of his parole by allegedly being spotted outside a parking lot daycare.

According to police last year, Snow has a lifetime order that "prevents him from attending a public park or public swimming area where persons under the age of 14 years are present or can reasonably be expected to be present, or a daycare centre, school ground, playground or community centre."

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APARTMENTS



The fine for violating the winter parking ban is doubling to \$100. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Parking fines to rise

CITY BUDGET

Ferries staying frequent, council says



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Halifax regional councillors met yesterday to go through some options in their fiscal 2017 budget.

Here are three choices of note:

1. Meter fines staying put, other parking fines going up

After a public backlash over a plan to raise parking meter fines, Halifax regional councillors have voted to raise every other kind of parking fine instead.

At the meeting yesterday, councillors voted in favour of one of two staff options to recoup the money that raising meter fines from \$25 to \$50 would have brought in.

That option means the fine for violating the winter parking ban is doubling to \$100, the fine for parking in a fire lane is going from \$100 to \$150, and the fine for more than 40 other parking offences is going either from \$25 to \$45, \$50 to \$100 or \$100 to \$150.

That option will bring in about \$1.5 million annually, but the hikes still require provincial approval before you'll see them on your windshield.

2. False alarm fines rising
Fines for false alarms from home security systems are go-

ing up in Halifax next year.

Halifax regional councillors voted Wednesday in favour of raising the fines for second, third, fourth and subsequent false alarms.

First offences will continue to be free – just a warning – but the fine for a second offence will go up to \$200 from \$100 this year, the fine for a third offence will rise from \$125 to \$300, and the fine for fourth and subsequent offences will rise from \$150 from \$500.

Those changes are expected to save the municipality \$348,150. Last year, 4,700 false alarms – at \$590 per fire call and \$48 per police call – cost the municipality more than \$1 million, of which it only recouped \$226,750.

3. Increased Big Lift ferry service to continue past bridge repair

Increased ferry service is here to stay – at least for six months following the completion of the Big Lift.

Halifax Transit started running the ferry every 15 minutes on weekday evenings and extended service on Sundays to match Saturdays in March 2015 when the Big Lift project started.

Coun. Sam Austin motioned at Halifax Transit's budget meeting to ask that the service be extended, and on Wednesday, councillors approved a pilot version of the plan.

Ridership, especially on Sundays, has been up during the Big Lift, and councillors voted to keep the service for six months to see if ridership stays up when the bridge is done.

Police warn of cars blocking streets

LAWS

Parking on any road less than 3 metres wide is an offence



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Police are reminding people to be extra vigilant when parking, thanks to narrow roadways caused by recent snowfall. In a media release, Halifax Regional Police said in some areas of the city vehicles are parked on either side of already narrow roads.

Due to the size of many snow banks, passing vehicles can no longer safely get through.

"If an emergency vehicle or snow plows can't get through, that's a huge problem," Halifax Regional Police Const. Dianne Penfound said in an interview.

"Before they park, we want the public to think 'Can an emergency vehicle get through here?' That's the most important thing."

Motorists are reminded that under the Motor Vehicle Act, stopping or parking in a business or residential area where less than three metres width of roadway remains for traffic is an offence. The penalty is a ticket of \$61.60 and the possible towing of your vehicle.

"We know it's frustrating with the limited parking especially downtown and with the snow banks out (into the road)," Penfound said. "That's all understandable but we all have to try and work together to make the roads safe and passable."

Penfound said they hadn't issued parking tickets since Monday's storm and didn't want to, which is why they were issuing the reminder.

"We know people are having a hard time, but safety first," she said.



Police are reminding people to be extra vigilant when parking, thanks to narrow roadways caused by recent snowfall.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TREATY RIGHTS

N.S. to grant pardon to late Mi'kmaq chief

Nova Scotia will grant a posthumous pardon Thursday to the first elected Mi'kmaq grand chief who became a passionate advocate for treaty rights after being convicted of illegal hunting.

Gabriel Sylliboy will receive only the second posthumous pardon in Nova Scotia history, after black civil rights pioneer Viola Desmond. The province said it will also apologize to Sylliboy, who died in 1964, at a

ceremony Thursday at Government House in Halifax. Sylliboy was born in 1874 at Whycocomagh, Cape Breton.

He was convicted of hunting illegally in 1927, but took his fight to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, claiming treaty rights as his defence.

He lost, but the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the Mi'kmaq people's treaty rights decades later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax DIGEST

Police searching for men after fentanyl, morphine taken from home

A quantity of the potentially deadly drug fentanyl was stolen during a home invasion late Tuesday. Investigators say three men forced their way into a home and demanded drugs from a homeowner.

They made off with quantities of fentanyl and morphine, a cellphone and cash, escaping the area undetected before police arrived. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Group sees spike in animal cruelty convictions

Jo-Anne Landsburg, Nova Scotia SPCA's chief investigator, said they've definitely noticed an increase in charges and convictions. "We are seeing better sentencing for the charges we are laying including lifetime prohibitions and even a jail sentence under the NS Animal Protection Act," Landsburg said they're also laying criminal code charges for certain cases. TC MEDIA

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Member of Parliament Iqra Khalid is congratulated by colleagues as she makes an announcement about an anti-Islamophobia motion on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

I along with some of my colleagues, have been the recipients of hateful comments. This strengthens my resolve to continue to combat this issue.
MP Iqra Khalid

Liberals strongly back anti-Islamophobia bill

PARLIAMENT

Motion calls for action against 'climate of hate and fear'

The Liberal government is coming out strongly in favour of a motion to condemn Islamophobia and all other forms of racism and religious discrimination.

Heritage Minister Melanie Joly said passing the non-binding motion would send a strong message about dis-

crimination against the Muslim community, particularly in light of the recent deadly attack on a mosque in Quebec City.

"We overwhelmingly reject the politics of racism and exclusion," Joly said Wednesday outside the House of Commons.

She was surrounded by Liberal MPs — including several cabinet ministers — as a strong show of support, and a signal of her confidence that despite this being a free vote, there would not be anyone in the Liberal caucus who is expected to stand against it.

"Our government is committed to building a diverse, inclusive and welcoming society that promotes respect for all, regardless of faith, race or ethnicity."

The private member's motion, put forward by Liberal MP Iqra Khalid, calls on the government to "recognize the need to quell the increasing public climate of hate and fear" and condemn Islamophobia, as well as all other kinds of "systemic racism and religious discrimination."

The Commons heritage committee would also be asked to study the issue and

develop a strategy to tackle it.

A number of Conservative MPs have called for the motion to be more inclusive, warning it risks stifling freedom of expression by preventing criticism of elements of Islam or Muslim culture, such as the face-covering veil known as the niqab.

Both Joly and Khalid insisted the motion would not touch on freedom of expression.

Khalid, a Muslim, said her own experience with Islamophobia over the past few weeks has convinced her to press ahead. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

'Hot tea' lawsuit against Starbucks fails



David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Remember the 1994 "hot coffee" lawsuit that saw a U.S. jury order McDonald's to pay a coffee-burn victim \$2.86 million in damages?

Turns out Starbucks could have had its own "hot tea" moment in Canada — except in the Sechelt, British Columbia case, a provincial court judge tossed out a local woman's lawsuit that had steeped for 17 months.

On Feb. 1, judge Steven

Merrick dismissed a tea-burn lawsuit filed by Shayla Williams, who received second- and third-degree burns to her "left thigh and gluteal area," she testified, after "the lid popped off" a cup of tea she'd ordered from a Starbucks drive-through — served at 86C, the company testified.

"Understandably, Ms. Williams was in significant pain," Merrick ruled. "Despite my sympathy for the claimant who clearly suffered extremely painful burns, it is my judgment that she has not proven her case against the defendant."

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metroNEWS World

Thursday, February 16, 2017 9



Protesters gather in Milwaukee, Wis., to rally against President Donald Trump's policy on immigration. Organizers are telling immigrants to skip class, miss work and not shop Thursday. GETTY

Immigrants to disappear — for a day

ACTIVISM!

Part of massive U.S.-spanning action to show their value

Organizers in cities across the U.S. are telling immigrants to miss class, miss work and not shop on Thursday as a way to show the country how important they are to America's economy and way of life.

"A Day Without Immigrants" actions are planned in cities including Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Austin, Texas.

The protest comes in response to President Donald Trump and his 1-month-old administration. The Republican president has pledged to increase deportation of immigrants living in the country illegally, build a wall along the Mexican border, and ban people from certain majority-Muslim countries from coming into the U.S. He also has blamed high unemployment on immigration.

Employers and institutions in some cities were already expressing solidarity Wednesday with immigrant workers. Washington restaurateur John Andrade said he would close his businesses Thursday, and David Suro, owner of Tequilas Restaurant in Philadelphia and a Mexican immigrant, said he also planned to participate.

The Davis Museum at Wellesley College in Massachusetts said it would remove or shroud all artwork created or given by immigrants to the museum through Feb. 21.

In New Mexico, the state with the largest percentage of Hispanic residents in the nation, school officials worried that hundreds of students may stay home on Thursday.

"We respectfully ask all parents to acknowledge that students need to be in class every day to benefit from the education they are guaranteed and to avoid falling behind in school and life," principals with the Albuquerque Public Schools wrote in a letter to parents.

Students who take part in the protest will receive an unexcused absence, Albuquerque school officials said.

“

What would happen if massive raids did happen? What would the city look like?

Erika Almiron

Organizers in Philadelphia said they expect hundreds of workers and families to participate.

"Our goal is to highlight the need for Philadelphia to expand policies that stop criminalizing communities of colour," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, a non-profit group that works with the Latino immigrant community. "What would happen if massive raids did happen? What would the city look like?"

Almiron said that while community groups have not seen an uptick in immigration raids in the city, residents are concerned about the possibility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LABOUR

American workers enter a 'dark period'

A review of the U.S. Department of Labor's website revealed that multiple posts about protecting precarious workers, enforcing labour laws and cracking down on wage theft have vanished.

"If we have been living in an overcast period for working people in the U.S., we are about to enter into a dark, dark period," said California-based workers' rights advocate Carmen Rojas.

There are notable disappearances, including an executive order that lifted the minimum wage of federal contractors to \$10.10 an hour — a move that provided an estimated 200,000 low-wage workers with a raise.

Numerous links to Department of Labor blog posts also appeared to be broken, specifically on issues related to wage theft, enforcement, and employee misclassification. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISRAEL

Trump charts new course for Middle East

President Donald Trump on Wednesday withheld clear support for an independent Palestine and declared he could endorse a one-nation solution to the long and deep dispute between Palestinians and Israel.

The American president, signalling a new era of comity between the U.S. and Israel after rocky relations under President Barack Obama, said he was more interested in an agreement that

leads to peace than in any particular path to get there.

While Trump urged Netanyahu to "hold off" on Jewish settlement construction in territory the Palestinians claim for their future state, he offered unwavering support for Israel.

"I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like," Trump told reporters. "I can live with either one." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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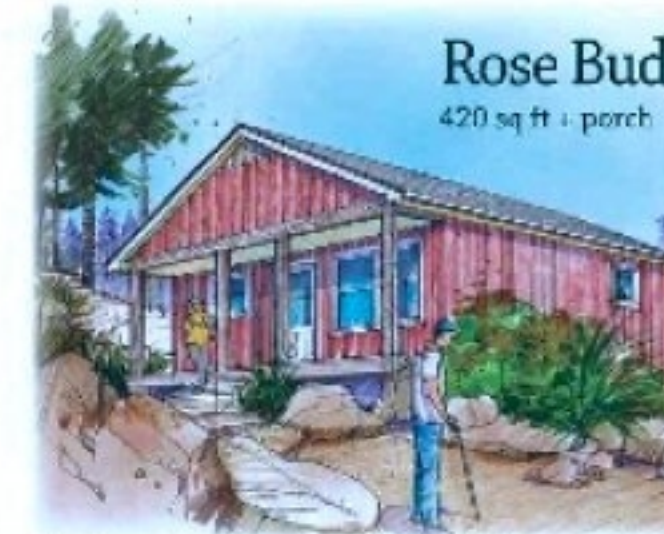
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12 Thursday, February 16, 2017

Business **metro** NEWS

MEDIA

Google calls plan 'tax on advertisers'

Proposals for tax changes aimed at helping Canadian publishers fight for revenues with online news aggregators would result in a punitive "tax on advertisers," executives from Google Canada and Facebook Canada told a Commons committee studying the country's media industry.

That's because tax laws currently on the books designed to prop up the industry are archaic and simply don't apply to the

Internet age, Jason Kee, Google Canada's head of policy and government relations, told the heritage committee Tuesday.

Kee said he had concerns over how such changes would be implemented.

"Long story short, it's essentially a tax on Canadian advertisers," he said.

A report by former journalist Edward Greenspon, commissioned by the Department of Heritage and unveiled late

last month, called on Ottawa to consider changing tax laws to favour Canadian news publishers in the digital advertising market and use the new revenue stream to establish an independent, publicly subsidized journalism fund.

The independent think-tank Public Policy Forum recommended that advertising with foreign-owned websites no longer be deductible under the federal Income Tax Act.

The report said that, by extending a 10 per cent withholding tax to commercials and advertising carried by foreign digital media, the government could create a revenue stream of up to \$400 million annually.

Kee said that assumes a direct relationship between an advertiser and a publisher that doesn't exist in the digital world, but does for traditional media under a policy dating from the 1960s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sets off on a trip to address the European Parliament. ADRIAN WYLD / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada and EU hail deal

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PM in Europe to address Parliament on Thursday

Lawmakers in Canada and Europe are hailing Wednesday's approval of the Canada-EU free trade deal by the European Parliament as a win for the values of openness in the face of anti-trade movements, including the Donald Trump administration in the United States.

The legislature in Strasbourg, France, approved the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement by a margin of 408-254, with 33 abstentions. The vote clears a major hurdle for the deal that saw its first round of bargaining almost eight years ago and has had to overcome mounting anti-trade populism in Europe.

Canada's Parliament also is expected to ratify the deal in the coming months, which means 90 per cent of it would come into force under provisional application.

That key procedural step allows the deal to take effect without the ratification of the European Union's 28 member countries and numerous regional

governments.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was en route to France to deliver his own pro-trade message in an address Thursday to the European Parliament, a first for a Canadian leader, and to top business leaders a day later in Germany.

On his way into a caucus meeting earlier Wednesday, Trudeau sang the praises of the deal as evidence of the merits of globalization.

"I think it's an illustration that when you put forward a progressive trade deal that takes into account the responsibility of governments to create good middle-class jobs, create inclusive growth — not just for a few, but for everyone — (and) that focuses on the middle class, we can move forward on globalization."

International Trade Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne, who was already in Strasbourg ahead of the vote, called it "the right deal at the right time."

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom took direct aim at anti-globalization forces in remarks to Parliament.

"With Canada we share the democratic values of tolerance and openness. We co-operate in tackling common challenges such as migration, sustainable development, climate change and terrorism," Malmstrom said.

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IN BRIEF

Check your Yahoo account
Yahoo is warning users of potentially malicious activity on their accounts between 2015 and 2016, the latest development in the company's probe of a mega-breach that exposed

1 billion users' data several years ago.

Yahoo confirmed Wednesday that it was notifying users that their accounts had potentially been compromised.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



HEATHER MALLICK ON MEDIA SPEAK



Language is resilient despite our attempts to level the playing field into a flatland of clichés. Here's my take.

As journalism is lauded for its efforts in a Trump world, it vies to be read, even by those whose outrage is sparked by shade being thrown at this divisive figure.

Resignations are called for, probes demanded. A fracas ensues, a kerfuffle even. It's quite the dust-up. Five fast facts you need to know about the imbroglio are curated and cited.

I dislike the word "hub." I won't soft-pedal this: it vexes me.

Same with "tweak," which Trump used Monday to refer to Canadian-American trade agreements that he will not tear up, though he likely won't dial back on his relentless attacks on an embattled southern neighbour. (He has his dukes up. I don't actually know what this means, probably something to do with cars or maybe bullfighting.)

Other words I decry: fashionista, sweet treat, fodder. As I mull them, they raise my ire and I rue their usage. I'd reach out to ask headline writers what they were thinking but I recoil lest they slam me.

Let's double down, take a deep dive into why readers are averse to veering into mainstream media of yore. It will be a game-changer, even in print where these archaic words were devised. Language is resilient despite our attempts to level the playing field into a flatland of clichés. Here's my take.

Shall I stop now? I'll try.

Why is news still delivered so woodenly?

The kind of words I laud, sorry, prefer, are the kind that English-speakers would use in conversation. Online sites that understand how to subliminally attract readers will not create barriers. Over

Brits write with cleverness and Americans with casual ease. The British media have done a better job than have the Americans at translating English from Faux Literary to Spoken Word. I can't speak

for a public act known as the Chicago Sunroof. It is one of the strangest and funniest monologues I've ever seen performed. In print, I don't know if it would be permitted.

When the "University" episode of *The Sopranos* — Ralph Cifaretto beats a young stripper to death in the Bada Bing parking lot — ran on HBO in April 2001, network TV knew it was finished unless it could compete with offering viewers that level of fake reality. One network sent the episode around head office asking what could be done.

Nothing, apparently. Cable won. It was better. With that lesson in mind, why is news still delivered so woodenly?

"World is sadder than we fancy it. World is crazier and more of it than we think," wrote Louis MacNeice in his 1935 poem "Snow." Journalism has to describe this world. Who's rising to the challenge? Who isn't?

The competition to see who can draw readers, if not advertising, will soon become a life struggle. If your headline on Trudeau disciplining a Trump handshake on the White House steps Monday didn't include "yank," "jerk" and a play-by-play analysis with reference to a 90-degree angle of arm, centre of gravity and the classic Hand Sandwich move, then it failed.

Here's a test. Sean Spicer on Tuesday referred to Trump's "incredibly productive set of meetings with PM Joe Trudeau of Canada."

Write a headline, please. I wait agog.

Heather Mallick is a Toronto Star staff columnist.



Real talk Heather Mallick on the need for old media to get with the new vernacular. GETTY IMAGES

here, they say, and one happily changes lanes.

But many media websites continue to use an olde worlde language. Readers don't necessarily register that they have taken an off-ramp. But suddenly they have the sensation that they have actually driven the wrong way. They are in a place where normal conversational English isn't spoken. Each time readers experience this, they feel unwelcome at some level and are less likely to return.

Journalism is fast and impermanent. It's written in haste with a 3 p.m. deadline 10 minutes ago and it doesn't work if it's delivered with pomposity. At their best,

for Canadians, but we're all trying here.

The American is like sportswear — comfortable and a thing of beauty — so why don't they use it in newspapers online? Bob Odenkirk, who plays scam artist Jimmy McGill in AMC's *Better Call Saul*, is also a writer, his most recent book *A Load of Hooey*. No one handles the American demotic better. It flows like honey. No, that's a cliché and a fake analogy. You don't pour honey onto your toast. Odenkirk's words flow like laundry detergent.

Online I could tell you how Slippin' Jimmy tells a bingo crowd at a seniors home how he was once arrested



The choice is hers Rachel Lindsay is the next Bachelorette, the first black lead in the show's history. WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

Reality TV gets real



Vicky Mochama
Metro

After 13 seasons of ignoring it, I am now a massive fan of television's longest-running arranged marriage scheme, *The Bachelorette*. This is because the newest bachelorette is Rachel Lindsay, a black female attorney.

It doesn't even air until May 22 and I can conclusively say it is the best show on television. And not only did ABC announce this during Black History Month, but — it can't be coincidence — the new season also premieres on my birthday. Fate has foretold the greatness of this show.

Even though it's in the vapid confines of *The Bachelorette*, it is still awesome to see many men vying for a black woman's attention and love. Yet it is telling about the state of the world that the producers, looking for ways to shake up the show, landed on "What if she was a black?"

Like using bad olive oil, it is offensive but not egregious. It suggests there's something incredibly wild and risky about dating a black woman. (I mean, there is, but that is because black women are incredible! Not because we are like feral animals in the outback.)

At the same time: finally. This show has been on for 12 seasons! Black people have been around for much longer!

Although there have been black contestants on both *The Bachelor* and *Bachelorette*, Lindsay included, they've never been the ones doing the choosing. And since the show's inception in 2002, they never got chose either.

Black women who are dating are statistically less likely to be picked. According to data from OkCupid founder

Christian Rudder, men on the website find black women the least desirable group.

In a cover feature for *The Walrus*, Hadiya Roderique experimented with the idea by alternating her OkCupid profile between her actual pictures, pictures of a white woman, and a "whitened" version of herself. As a white woman, she received far more messages than when she presented as herself, a black woman.

This jives with my own dating experience. The first time I quit Tinder was because the messages I received were hyper-sexualized and racialized. The former is part of the appeal of the app to some, but for me the combination just created a digitized version of the racist sexual harassment I experience in real life.

(I am back on again with some rules — e.g. if the other person says something even remotely racial, I hit that unmatch button faster than Usain Bolt sprints.)

For black women, the romantic fairy tale told by popular culture hasn't included us. That is why I will be watching *The Bachelorette* when Rachel Lindsay finds her Prince Harry.

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Actress-producer Krysten Ritter is becoming a novelist. Crown Archetype said that it had acquired Ritter's *Bonfire*, a psychological thriller about an environmental lawyer and a company accused of dumping toxic chemicals.



Books for bitter times

TAKING ISSUES

Put the phone away and open up to genuinely alternative facts

Marissa Stapley
Torstar News Service

In a world where facts and truth are becoming collateral damage, I've been speaking out even more than usual, and I'm not alone. There's an anger being awakened in all of us.

For me, that means having pointless arguments online with people I went to elementary school with and will probably never see again, and harsh, politically charged arguments with close family members.

None of this has been rewarding, and it certainly hasn't changed anything. But what will?

I realized recently that in order to find that out, I needed to shut down my computer, look away from my phone and turn to the place within which I've always sought knowledge and comfort: books.

Debate

In *I'm Right and You're an Idiot* (New Society, 272 pages, \$19.95) Canadian public relations guru turned author and activist James Hoggan writes: "In debate we assume we have the right answer, whereas dialogue assumes we all have pieces of the answer and can craft a solution together."

"Debate is combative and about winning, while dialogue is collaborative and focuses on exploring the common good. Debaters defend their assumptions and criticize the views of others, whereas in dialogue we reveal assumptions and examine all positions, including our own."

To that end, here's what I've been reading lately to find ways to constructively support what I already value and believe and to open my mind to the beliefs of others. Plus, I needed to find a way to stop shouting so much.

Liberalism

Listen, Liberal (Thomas Frank, Metropolitan Books, 320 pages, \$31.50) takes on the democratic elite. As Canada awakens to how very like the U.S. we may be, questioning liberal values with an eye to both defending them and improving them, as well as truly understanding what it means to be elitist, is an uncomfortable necessity.

Classism

So, what's the opposite of a member of the liberal elite? *Hillbilly Elegy* (J.D. Vance, Harper, 272 pages, \$34.99) has the answer to that. Vance was raised in the Rust Belt by a drug-addicted mother and then in the Appalachians by guardian grandparents who

struggled with alcoholism and violence.

They loved him fiercely. His story puts a face to the white underclass who have become so outspoken in today's political arena. There's a lot to grapple with in a book like this but it's a good place to start when trying to understand what's going on in communities you may not identify with — and it makes it clear that speaking out from within, in any community, is the only way forward.

Religion

Next, I read *Letters to a Young Muslim*, by Omar Saif Ghobash (Picador, 272 pages, \$31). This book is meant as a plea for moderation from an author who has clearly listened deeply and wants to speak the truth, gently and respectfully.

He's also writing to his sons, which ups the ante. No shouting allowed. Those arguing with the most fierceness — on both sides — about immigration bans and extremism may know nothing about what it means to be a Muslim or what Islam is. This is just a starting point, and a fine one at that.

Feminism

Now, on to feminism. I've been a feminist practically since I could speak in full sentences but never before have I felt on one hand so supported and on the other so opposed.

I've read plenty of books that support what I already think, but *Unfinished Business* by Anne Slaughter (Random House, 352 pages, \$32) reminded me that this word "equality" I keep using

might not mean what I think it does — and she bravely offers up a manifesto for true equality.

Why I Am Not A Feminist by Jessa Crispin (Melville House, 176 pages, \$33.99) comes from an author who has created an identity out of being a contrarian, true, but who also demands more of mainstream feminism than it's currently delivering. (She is indeed looking directly at all of us in our cute pink pussy hats.)

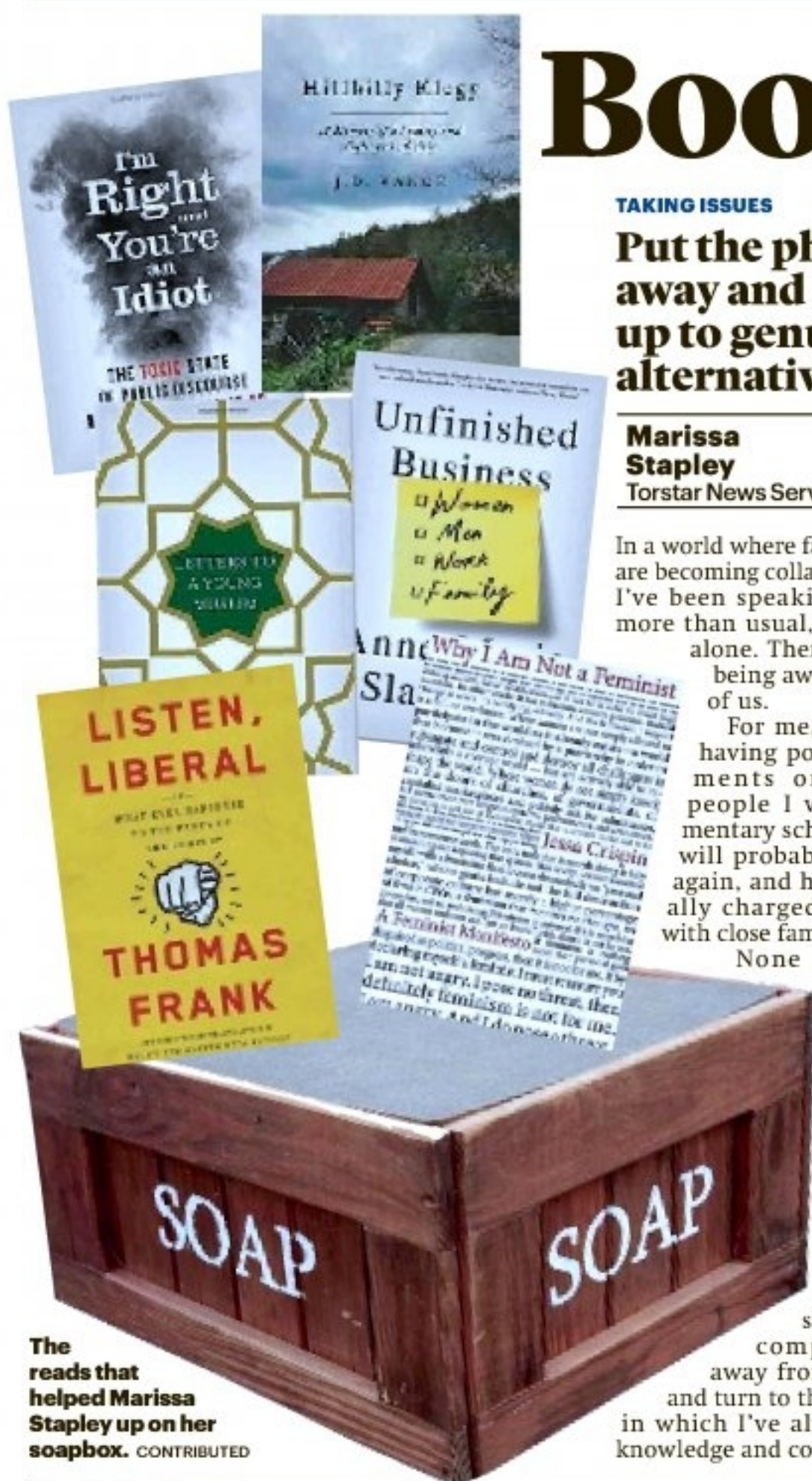
Conservatism

This is all just a beginning. I'm still searching — and late this week, my search led me to the Little Free Library on my street. And there it was, a battered volume called *Confessions of a Conservative*.

When I got it home, I realized it was written in 1979 by Pulitzer-Prize winning author Garry Wills. Wills is a Roman Catholic who has criticized the approach of the church to homosexuality, abortion and contraception. He once wrote an article for *The New York Review of Books* that took on the second amendment. He no longer calls himself a conservative, mostly because of his experiences covering the civil rights movement, for example — but also because the conservatives won't have him.

Wills was brave, both to stand for something and then to abandon it when listening to the other side led him to a new way of seeing. I'm planning to stay open to this, no matter where my current quest for balanced knowledge leads me.

Courage, as well as a stack of books, is imperative.



The reads that helped Marissa Stapley up on her soapbox. CONTRIBUTED

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Goodbye to the man who connected us

OBITUARY

Tributes pour in for beloved Vinyl Cafe host Stuart McLean

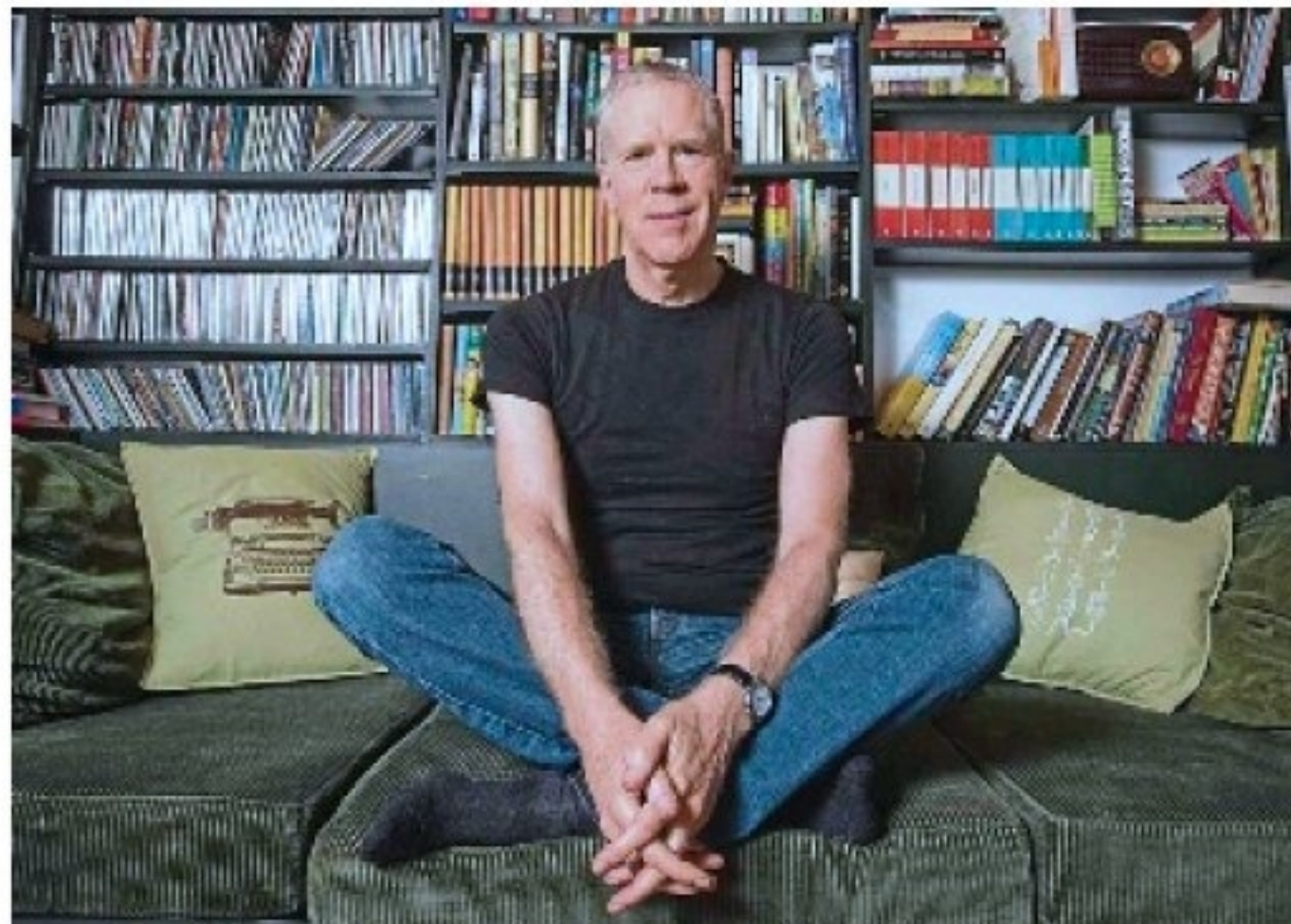
Stuart McLean, a bestselling author, journalist and humorist who was "firmly committed to celebrating the positive, joyful and funny side of life" through his popular CBC Radio program The Vinyl Cafe, has died. He was 68.

"We were deeply saddened to learn that Stuart McLean passed away earlier today. Stuart was an exceptional storyteller who has left an indelible mark on CBC Radio and countless communities across Canada," read a statement from Susan Marjetti, executive director of radio and audio for CBC English Services.

In December, McLean announced he was suspending the long-running program to focus on treatment for melanoma, which he was diagnosed with in late 2015. He said his first round of immunotherapy treatment that winter was not completely successful and he needed to undergo another round this year.

The Vinyl Cafe radio show, which featured a mix of stories, essays and musical performances, was spun off into bestselling books and became a touring production in 2008. The show's stories centred on Dave, the owner of a secondhand record store, and also featured Dave's wife, Morley, their two children, Sam and Stephanie, and various friends.

"Every week for 22 years, Stuart connected with his listeners in a way that few before him



Humorist, radio host and author Stuart McLean was an officer of the Order of Canada and a professor emeritus at Ryerson University in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

have. His Dave and Morley stories were as entertaining as they were enlightening; they made us pause, reflect, but most of all laugh along together," said Marjetti.

A posting on the official Vinyl Cafe website said the staff behind the show were "finding comfort in memories of our dear friend."

"Stuart always emphasized that the world is a good place, full of good people, trying to do their best. He believed in people's extraordinary capacity for love and generosity. And he had faith in our ability to work together for the common good," the message reads.

"Stuart connected us — to our country and to each other.

He entertained us, he made us think, he made us smile. Occasionally he made us cry. And, through all of that, he reminded us that life is made up of small moments. We never know which ones will be forgotten and which ones will stay with us forever."

McLean had been upbeat about his cancer setback and told fans in an online message posted in December that he expected to return to work.

"I don't want you to worry about me. A year ago I told you that I expected this to be just a bump in the road, not the end of the road. I still believe that to be true. I hope we will meet up again — on the radio or in theatres. We'll make sure to tell you before that happens,"

McLean wrote.

"In the meantime, look after yourselves and each other. And know that this isn't goodbye. It's just ... so long for now."

On Twitter, comedian Mark Critch of the CBC show This Hour Has 22 Minutes paid tribute to McLean. "I wrote several #StuartMcLean parodies for '22.' They were easy to write because I was such a fan of his work. I'll miss his Canada," Critch tweeted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTERVIEW

Sympathy for the hateful alpha mom

Ryan Porter
For Metro Canada



In the HBO miniseries Big Little Lies, Laura Dern plays Renata Klein, the Queen of Monterey, California, whose idea of a fabulous summer vacation is joining the board of Paypal.

When Renata is pitted against a fellow alpha mom, played by Reese Witherspoon, murder, naturally, ensues. The Oscar-nominated actor spoke to Metro about finding sympathy for "the character that you love to hate."

What was it like to film in a beautiful beachfront home?

So. Gorgeous. When they showed the first episode at a premiere this week, when people saw me on my deck, they laughed. They think they know that person. The richest one. The most powerful. And the minute you set that up she becomes the character that you love to hate.

How did you find sympathy for her?

It's interesting to see how men and fathers interact in the world, and no one's judging their parenting based on their career or lack of career. But they are judging a working mom.

Were you surprised by Donald Trump's victory?

I was as devastated as I have felt in my lifetime. I had done what a lot of my friends did and that was to ensure my children that (Hillary Clinton's win) would be the only outcome. She did win people's



Laura Dern in HBO's Big Little Lies. CONTRIBUTED

vote. Having worked on the film Recount for HBO, I went through a lot of research to play a woman who was notorious for helping voter suppression and voter fraud. It exists every time, but if you're going to add another country's involvement, it means the system is broken. How do you explain that to your kids?

A recent study found that Americans ranked busy people, like your character, as high status. Do you see a shift in how people look at work/life balance?

As Americans, we hurry ourselves to make it all happen as fast as possible. Art doesn't work that way. The great artists that inspired me are the ones that take time and let things gestate.

If you had known as a child that you would grow up to be in a Star Wars movie, what would you have thought?

I was raised by actors, and I wouldn't have dreamt it up. It never occurred to me until I was on set and I looked around. I was in shock. Big Little Lies premieres Feb. 19 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HBO Canada.

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The Azria's 1930s estate hits the market

SUNSET BLVD.

A peek inside Maison du Soleil reveals signature hue

It's sunny side up all the way at Maison du Soleil on Sunset Blvd. Smiles are built into the colourful décor and cosiness envelopes every room of the Los Angeles trophy estate.

The luxuriously appointed home was intended to be "candy for the eyes," according to owner Lubov Azria, half of the power couple behind the fashion house BCBG Max Azria Group.

Much of the house is decorated in cheery orange, her husband Max's favourite colour, Azria says during a video tour for Haute Havens.

With its scale and grandeur — 60 rooms in total — the "house of the sun" is beyond spacious. Yet you never feel lost or overwhelmed, according to Alla Furman of Hilton & Hyland, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate.

"It's very cosy the way it's furnished," she says. "It's grand because of the high ceilings but there's a warmth that makes it very inviting and livable."

As one example, Azria describes her living room as "happy," with its collection of sunburst mirrors — which give the house its name — and whimsical touches, such as toy sheep lined up along one wall.

The room itself is alive with vibrant jewel tones, anchored by a wavy-patterned area carpet.

Maison du Soleil was designed in the late 1930s by architect Paul

Williams, whose classic Hollywood homes have been occupied by celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Denzel Washington, among others.

After the Azrias bought the house from writer and producer Sidney Sheldon, they did a major renovation and rebuild 10 years ago, which blended contemporary design elements with classic architecture. The gated estate near Beverly Hills occupies just over one hectare in the Holmby Hills neighbourhood, which is home to such celebrity pads as the Playboy Mansion.

In keeping with the glamorous lifestyles of area residents, the Azrias have enjoyed entertaining as many as 150 people in their lavish abode. They've also raised six children there.

A separate 6,000-square-foot building houses a home theatre with a catalogue of 7,000 films to entertain guests. Above the theatre is a guest suite and office, which Max has embellished with a 14-karat gold ceiling.

The former pool house, converted to a sumptuous spa, boasts a Moroccan theme that creates the atmosphere of a Mediterranean vacation, according to Furman.

She's also captivated by the estate's five themed gardens, including French and Japanese, where "you feel like you're surrounded by nature."

After numerous visits to the elegant and energizing compound, Furman sums up the experience in simple terms: "It's like you're in paradise."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE LISTING

Price: \$88M
Size: 30,000 sq. ft.
Bedrooms: 17
Bathrooms: 22



The livingroom is a kaleidoscope of colour with vibrant accents and sunburst mirrors.



Ubiquitous orange accents inject pops of cheeriness to the bar lounge.



A 3-D ceiling installation reflects pumpkin-coloured carpets in entertainment area. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

+ BRING IT HOME

Develop an orange crush

Chase away the winter blahs by bringing the sun inside. Warm shades of yellow and orange can enliven a room with a painted feature wall or new accents, such as cushions, table linens and artwork.

A potted plant or fresh flowers will bring affordable, instant freshness and colour to a space.

To let in more natural light and get a jump on spring cleaning, wash windows, replace heavy window coverings with lightweight fabrics or shades, or add a large mirror or shiny surfaces to reflect incoming light.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DÉCOR

Get your home red-carpet-ready with Badgley Mischka

Design duo Mark Badgley and James Mischka, known for show-stopping red-carpet gowns, are bringing the glamour of their fashion shows to a living room near you.

The designers describe their first-ever Badgley Mischka Home Collection, launched this week, as "couture furniture" infused with old Hollywood glamour.

"We love when a piece of furniture has a little bit of atmosphere to it, where it sort of harks back to the golden era of Holly-

wood. At the same time, it's our quest to keep every piece modern. So it's been a real luxury and a real treat to work on something besides a red-carpet ball gown," said Badgley during an exclusive sneak peek of the collection in Los Angeles. Badgley and Mischka also pulled inspiration straight from their runway collection, which they presented Feb. 14 during New York Fashion Week. Some of the furniture was used in the show.

"We used a lot of fabrics that

were reminiscent of fabrics that we are using on the couture collection," said Mischka. "Our (fashion) collection is done with a lot of hand-beading and a lot of very intricate work on the couture gowns. And this collection also has handwork on it. All the finishes are distressed by hand. It's extremely labour intensive, which is very much like our couture gowns."

Their approach to designing for the dining room and the red carpet is the same: The devil is

in the details.

"We were very involved, from sketching. We scoured Europe for fabrications. We flew in tiny little planes to the middle of nowhere where we could find the craftsmanship to execute certain processes. It was a real labour of love," Badgley said.

The collection ranges in price from \$100 to \$10,000 and includes accent pieces, beds, chairs, sofas, tables, cabinets, candles and artwork. It will be available on the designers' website

and at Neiman Marcus. Colourful sketches of Badgley Mischka gowns were blown up and framed. Lush fabrics line a gold, zebra-print bench and a velvet octagonal coffee table. Like a dress with a wow moment on the back, there's a sleek, grey couch with striking geometric wood pattern only seen from behind.

Their favourite piece? A masculine, dark wood desk with gold detailing and curved architectural flair.

"It's very sensual," Badgley

said. "It's very simple. Nothing pretentious about it, but the finishings make it, and elevate it to such a couture piece."

"These pieces are timeless. James and I have never liked trendy pieces. We don't like trendy clothes. We certainly don't like trendy furniture. When James and I buy a piece, we want to know that it's going to be in the home for the next 20, 30, 40 years. And that, to us, is what this furniture stands for."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ready for a Fight Night

FAN'S GUIDE

Getting you ready for UFC's return to city



Adam Richardson
For Metro | Halifax

The UFC returns to Halifax on Sunday for Fight Night 105. Here's a fan's guide to get you ready for the Scotiabank Centre fight card:

MAIN EVENT: Sunday's headliner features a pair of hard-hitting heavyweights in Houston's Derrick Lewis (17-4, 8-2 UFC) and Hawaii's Travis Browne (18-5-1, 9-5-1 UFC). Although Lewis and Browne are ranked eighth and ninth respectively, their fortunes are quite different as of late. Lewis is on a five-fight winning streak, while "Hapa" Browne has dropped four of his last six. It's worth noting that all four of Browne's recent defeats came against former UFC heavyweight champions in Fabricio Werdum (twice), Cain Velasquez and a back-and-forth slugfest with Andrei Arlovski.

FORMER CHAMPIONS: A pair of former UFC champions will step into the Octagon. Former welterweight kingpin Johny "Bigg Rigg" Hendricks left the division after weight issues and three consecutive losses. He makes his middleweight debut on Sunday against Cuban-born Hector Lombard, a veteran of more



Spectators enjoy UFC action in 2014. Now we're ready for more. JEFF HARPER/METRO

than 40 MMA fights. Carla "Cookie Monster" Esparza became the first UFC Women's strawweight Champion in December of 2014 before dropping the belt to current champion Joanna Jedrzejczyk in her first defence. She meets Canadian Randa "Quiet Storm" Markos, who was a housemate of Esparza's on The Ultimate Fighter television show.

ROCK SOLID: No Bluenosers fight Sunday, but Newfoundland and Labrador will be represented twice. Ship Cove,



Heavyweights Derrick Lewis, left, and Travis Browne face off in the main event on Sunday. LEFT: GETTY IMAGES, RIGHT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.L., prospect Gavin Tucker (9-0) lives and trains in Halifax. Tucker makes his UFC debut against veteran Sam Sicilia.

St. John's middleweight Ryan Janes won his first UFC contest in December, and faces American Gerald Meerschaert in the night's opening bout.

SLEEPER MATCHUP: Make sure to catch the final preliminary bout. French-born Tristar product Nordine Taleb battles Argentina's Santiago Ponzinibbio in an important welterweight matchup. Both fighters have power, sport a combined 9-3 Octagon record and are looking to move up the rankings. More than half

of their career victories have ended in a knockout.

FAMOUS NAME: If the last name of bantamweight Aiemann Zahabi sounds familiar, you may know his brother. Firas Zahabi is a well-known coach at the renowned Tristar gym in Montreal, home to the likes of UFC legend Georges St-Pierre. Aiemann is undefeated and steps into the Octagon for the first time against Brazil's Reginaldo Vieira.

TUF MATCHUP: Two former winners of The Ultimate Fighter square off when Canada's Elias Theodorou challenges Brazil's Cezar "Mutante" Ferreira in a middleweight bout.

WHEN TO ARRIVE: So, when do the big fights happen? The main card doesn't begin until 10 p.m., and many of the biggest fights (including Tucker's debut) likely won't hit the ring until well after 11 p.m. The 11-fight card starts at 7:30 p.m. when Janes meets Meerschaert, so plan accordingly for more than five hours of action. Doors open at 6 p.m. Consider arriving early if you want to be in your seat for the opening bout, as security measures will be in place at the door.

BEER IN YOUR SEAT: In-seat alcohol will be permitted.

WEIGH-INS: The ceremonial weigh-ins are Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. at the World Trade and Convention Centre. An hour prior to the weigh-ins, UFC heavyweight Ben Rothwell will host a Q&A with fans. Both events are free. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Lesnar retires from UFC

Former UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar has informed the mixed martial arts promotion that he is retired from competition.

The UFC confirmed the former heavyweight champion's decision Wednesday.

Lesnar, 39, returned from a 4.5-year MMA absence last July to beat Mark Hunt at UFC 200, but the result was overturned after Lesnar failed two doping tests. He was subsequently suspended from competition for a year by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which administers the UFC's doping policy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OTP cuts rugby 7s cash

Rugby Canada expected to take a hit on Own The Podium funding for its men's sevens team. But it did not expect the entire well to dry up.

Own The Podium has told Rugby Canada that the men's sevens squad, which got \$850,000 in OTP recommended funding in 2016-17, won't get anything in fiscal 2017-18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Wings' Nyquist gets 6-game ban for high stick

Detroit Red Wings forward Gustav Nyquist was suspended on Wednesday for six games for high-sticking Minnesota Wild defenceman Jared Spurgeon during a game last weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Bayern rout leaves Arsenal in big trouble

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Thiago double helps Munich put one foot in quarter-finals

Bayern Munich answered its critics with a comprehensive 5-1 rout of Arsenal in the first leg of their Champions League clash to put one foot in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Thiago Alcantara struck twice in a superb performance, while Arjen Robben, Robert Lewandowski and substitute Thomas Muller scored the other goals. Arsenal now faces what

seems a near-impossible task in the second leg of the Round of 16 on March 7, despite a first-half equalizer from Alexis Sanchez.

Bayern had been unconvincing in its five games since the winter break but the home side soon took control of the game.

There was little Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina could do to stop Robben from opening the scoring in the 11th minute. Given too much space, the Dutchman cut inside as he's done so often before and let fly with a shot that went in

off the underside of the bar.

Arsenal was given a lifeline when Lewandowski took down Arsenal captain Laurent Koscielny in the box and the referee awarded the penalty before the half-hour mark.

Amid deafening whistles from the home fans, Manuel Neuer saved Sanchez' weak spot kick and Sanchez then missed the rebound but the Chilean cut the Bayern fans' cheers short when he prodded in at the third attempt.

Arsenal, which lost captain

Laurent Koscielny to injury early in the second half, appears set to exit in the Round of 16 for the seventh season in a row.

But it was all Bayern for the second half as Lewandowski rose above two defenders to head into a 2-1 lead on 53 minutes. The Poland striker produced a brilliant back-heeled flick to send Thiago through to score another three minutes later.

Thiago grabbed his second a few minutes later, with a deflected shot after a corner, before Muller completed the rout two minutes after he came on in the 86th.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Munich's Thomas Muller celebrates making it 5-1 against Arsenal at Allianz Arena in Germany. JEAN CATUFFE/GETTY IMAGES

6

Number of seasons in a row that Arsenal have exited the Champions League in the last 16.

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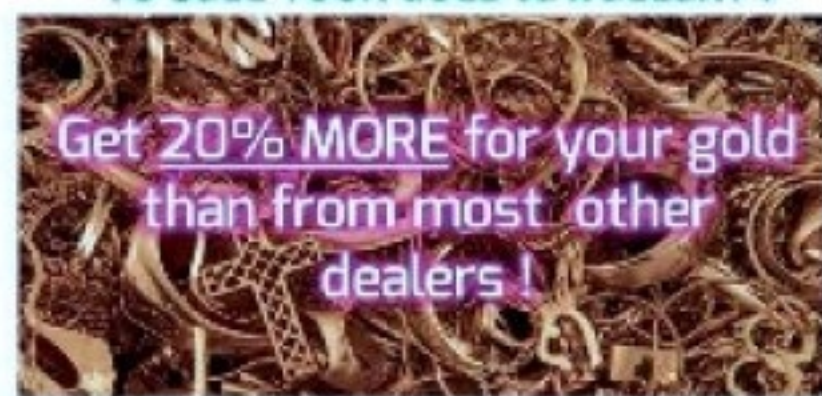
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PHOTO: MAVA VISNVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

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Ready in minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30
Serves 4

- Ingredients**
- 6 large boneless, skinless chicken thighs
 - olive oil
 - salt and pepper
 - 3/4 pound mini red, white and purple potatoes, halved or quartered if large
 - 6-8 cherry tomatoes
 - 1/4 cup bocconcini
 - 8-10 basil leaves, roughly chopped

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400.
2. Rub the chicken thighs on both sides with olive oil and then generously season with salt and pepper.
3. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, cover and cook until it browns on one side, about 3 minutes. Turn the chicken; add the potatoes. Allow the chicken to cook another 3 minutes to brown then add the cherry tomatoes; transfer to oven and roast, uncovered, until chicken and potatoes are cooked, about 20 minutes.
4. Remove skillet from pan and toss in cheese and garnish with basil.

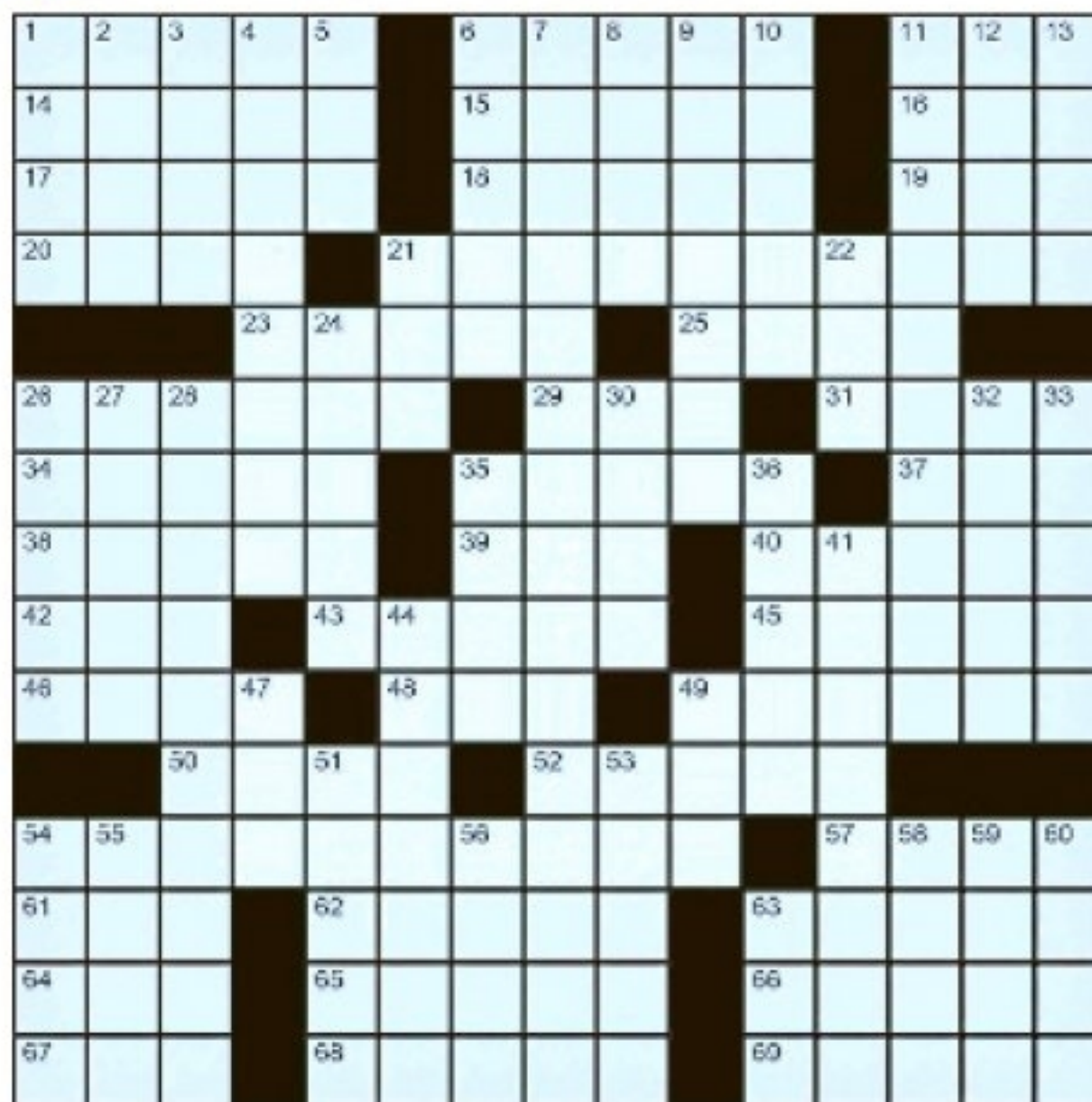
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ACROSS

1. Movie
6. "The table ___" (Helpful dinner-time comment)
11. Tree's fluid
14. Pliant/agile
15. Put ___ (Get working)
16. Make the score even
17. "___ Which Way But Loose" (1978)
18. West: French
19. Pro golfer Ernie
20. Half, in Hull
21. Most like bread's famous spread
23. Strip of mown lawn
25. Table salt, chemistry-style
26. Indifference
29. The Beeb
31. Mr. Kristoferson
34. "The Godfather" (1972) syndicate
35. Herd-heralded
37. Rapsallion
38. More likely to
39. Not in fashion
40. Adversary
42. Mystery novelist Ms. Grafton
43. People from Helsinki's country
45. ___-3 fatty acid
46. Baby Atlantic Herring, for short
48. 'Sure' sign
49. Nova Scotia's provincial bird
50. Big bathing basins
52. Trunk
54. Daytime TV



- dramas: 2 wds.
57. Young sheep
61. Sneeze starters...
62. ___ Marner (1861 novel)
63. Jewel
64. Meet for a meeting
65. Elliptical path

66. Etruria's environs
67. Horticulturist's implement
68. Financial resources
69. Fathers: French

DOWN

1. Escaped
2. 1995: "Lightning Crashes" band
3. Detail
4. Modelling legend Ms. Brinkley
5. Important
6. "We Can Work ___" by The

- Beatles
7. 1971 song by #11-Down: 2 wds.
8. Tallow source
9. Gist
10. Bright pet fish
11. Canadian band with the hit "Ten Pound Note", as well as #7-Down:

- 2 wds.
12. Is feeling poorly
13. Nuisance
21. James or Hudson
22. "Eeew!"
24. Dock
26. Stockpile
27. ___ New Guinea
28. Leftover flavour
30. C-3PO, et al.
32. Effigy
33. Flare
35. Uni
36. Smelter's waste
41. Discourteous
44. Motivate in a way
47. Clone or copy, curtly
49. Alternative words
51. Tom Hanks sitcom, "___ Bud-dies"
53. Brewery kilns
54. Belt alternative
55. 2004: "___ Is for Lovers" by Hawthorne Heights
56. British actor Idris
58. Slightly open
59. Sort of spy
60. Purchases
63. Marcel Marceau's clown

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Talk to groups or classes today, especially with younger people. This also is a good day to do some goal setting for the future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You are mentally energetic today, which is why you will make a good impression talking to bosses, parents and VIPs. Don't hesitate to share your ideas.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is easy to study today or learn anything new. You also will love to make travel plans and have discussions about philosophy, religion, politics and metaphysics.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to discuss shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. You have the mental energy to plow through a lot of red-tape details.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Discussions with partners and close friends will be lively and dynamic today. Everyone is full of bright ideas, and of course, you are quick to see the bottom line and grasp the big picture.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This will be a productive day at work because you can communicate well with others. In addition, you have the energy to work with your hands and accomplish something.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are creative today. Get busy working in the arts, the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or anything to do with sports or children.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an excellent day to tackle home repairs. It's also a great day for family discussions, because you have a desire to communicate.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Writers, salespeople, actors and teachers are empowered today. You are keen to communicate and you have great ideas. This is because your mental energy is strong.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're full of moneymaking ideas today. It's a good idea to write them down in case you want to act on one of them later. (It's not every day that we have bright ideas.)

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Mercury is in your sign now, which is why you are so keen to communicate to others. You have ideas and dreams, and you want to enlighten others by sharing these ideas.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Research of any kind will go well today, because you have the motivation, stamina and the attention to detail that is needed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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9	6	5	8	7	3	2	1	4
8	3	1	2	4	9	7	6	5
3	5	7	6	9	2	8	4	1
1	9	2	4	5	8	6	3	7
4	8	6	7	3	1	9	5	2
2	4	3	9	6	5	1	7	8
6	7	9	1	8	4	5	2	3
5	1	8	3	2	7	4	9	6

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